

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 NEAE-00 OMB-01 SSM-03 SAM-01

SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07

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P R 211352Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5370

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5066

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SU, SA

SUBJECT: THREE POWER SUMMIT IN JIDDA

1. THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED MINI-SUMMIT OF SAUDI ARABIA, SUDAN AND EGYPT IN JIDDA WAS A DRAMATIC PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT NUMEIRI RATHER THAN A WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST ISSUES AS SUGGESTED BY THE COMMUNIQUE.

2. THE HASTILY-CALLED THREE-DAY MEETING (17-19 JULY) ENDED WITH THE SAME ROYAL FANFARE THAT IT STARTED. THERE WERE EFFUSIVE DECLARATIONS OF ARAB SOLIDARITY AND BROTHERHOOD AND EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FOR THE FIGHTING IN LEBANON.

3. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THESE SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY BY THE THREE HEADS OF STATE. BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA MAY HAVE EXPLORED THE LEBANESE SITUATION IN MORE DETAIL.

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4. THE EMPHASIS WAS DEFINITELY ON THE SUDAN AND THE MOST RECENT ABORTIVE COUP. THREE PRESS, BOTH ARABIC AND ENGLISH, GAVE UNUSUAL FRONT-PAGE PROMINENCE TO AN INTERVIEW WITH NUMEIRI WHO ACCUSED COL. QADHAFI BY NAME OF BEING BEHIND THE COUP ATTEMPT.

5. TRADITIONAL SAUDI HOSPITALITY NORMALLY DICTATES AGAINST SUCH PERSONAL ATTACKS WHILE BEING A GUEST HERE. HOWEVER, IT ALLOWED THE PRINTING OF SUCH PHRASES AS QADHAFI'S "MAD LUST FOR POWER" AS BEING PART OF THE MOTIVATION FOR THE EVENTS IN THE SUDAN.

6. THE PRESS EMPHASIZED THAT SUDAN OCCUPIED A KEY POSITION IN THE RED SEA AND POINTED OUT THE DANGERS TO SAUDI ARABIA OF HAVING AN UNFRIENDLY OR HOSTILE GOVERNMENT IN KHARTOUM.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMITY, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JIDDA05066
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760280-0834
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760738/aaaabgpv.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THREE POWER SUMMIT IN JIDDA
TAGS: PFOR, EG, SU, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006